

### **REMARKS**

Applicant appreciates the Examiner Chawan's time spent to discuss this application with the undersigned attorney. On July 7, 2008, claims 1 and 21 were discussed with regard to section 101 rejection and agreement was reached. Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 16-27 are currently pending. Claims 4 and 9-15 have been previously canceled.

### **ALLOWED CLAIMS**

Applicants gratefully acknowledge allowance of claims 16-20 in the Office Action.

### **CLAIM REJECTS UNDER 35 USC § 101**

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 21-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that claims 1-3, 5-8 and 21-27 merely manipulate an abstract idea without a claimed limitation to produce a useful, concrete, tangible result.

Claims 1 and 21 have been amended to recite a method for generating a character string recognized to represent speech which comprises generating the resultant pattern character string and processing the resultant pattern character string as the character string representing the speech; and outputting the resultant pattern character string as the character string representing the speech for subsequent processing using the speech output. Applicants submit that claims 1 and 21 as amended do not merely manipulate an abstract idea and produce a useful, concrete, tangible result.

Claims 2-3, 5-8 and 22-27 as dependent claims of claims 1 and 21 include all of features of claims 1 and 21. For the same reasons above, claims 2-3, 5-8 and 22-27 produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.

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Based on the above, claims 1-3, 5-8 and 21-27 recite statutory subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-3, 5-8 and 21-27 are respectfully requested.

### **CONCLUSION**

For all of the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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